

## A National Program

PeDALS is a project funded by the Library of Congress, National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation



Program (NDIIPP) as part of its Preserving State Government Information initiative. This initiative focuses on capturing, preserving, and providing access to a rich variety of state and local government digital information.

NDIIPP's mission is to develop a national strategy to collect, archive, and preserve for future generations the burgeoning amount of digital content, especially materials that are created only in digital formats. NDIIPP is working with a number of multi-state projects to preserve a variety of state and local government information with long-term value to Congress and others. These projects focus on capturing, preserving, and making available significant digital content; building and strengthening a network of partners; and developing a technical infrastructure of tools and services. Each project will share these tools and services, as well as standards and best practices to help every state manage its digital heritage.



For more information about NDIIPP and the Preserving State Government Information initiative, visit

[www.digitalpreservation.gov/partners/states.html](http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/partners/states.html)



## State Partners

Alabama Department of Archives and History  
[www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)

Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records  
[www.lib.az.us](http://www.lib.az.us)

State Library and Archives of Florida  
[www.flinfosearch.org](http://www.flinfosearch.org)

New Mexico State Records Center and Archives  
[www.nmcpr.state.nm.us](http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us)

New York State Archives  
[www.archives.nysed.gov](http://www.archives.nysed.gov)

New York State Library  
[www.nysl.nysed.gov](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov)

South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
[www.scdah.sc.gov](http://www.scdah.sc.gov)

Wisconsin Historical Society  
[www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org)

For more information, visit  
[www.pedalspreservation.org](http://www.pedalspreservation.org)  
or send a message to [info@pedalspreservation.org](mailto:info@pedalspreservation.org)

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[www.digitalpreservation.gov](http://www.digitalpreservation.gov)

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Library Services, Library Services and Technology Act  
[www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov)

PRESERVING  
AMERICA'S  
DIGITAL  
HERITAGE

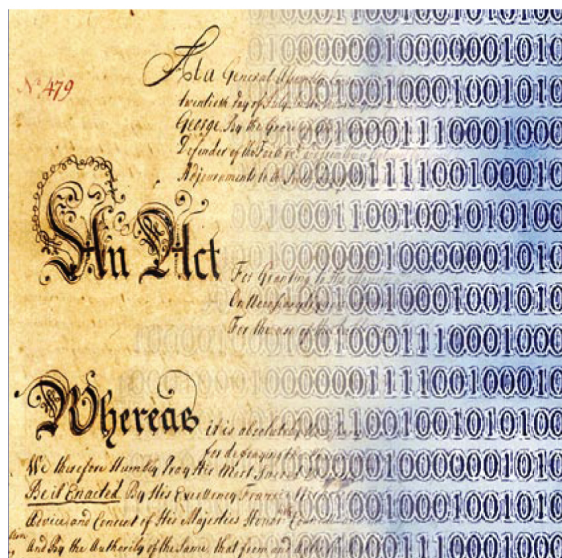


## The Challenge

With the shift from paper to electronic publications and records, libraries and archives are finding that traditional curatorial workflows and practices — appraisal, arrangement, description, storage, reference, and access — must be redesigned and refined for digital information.

The explosive growth in the number of electronic records and digital publications in state and local government poses an additional and significant challenge. Traditional processes will not scale to the massive quantities of digital information being produced today.

The PeDALS project seeks to develop new processes to allow archives and libraries to carry out their traditional mandates and responsibilities in the digital era. The key will be establishing a system to support an automated, integrated workflow to process these digital materials. The project is also developing a secure storage network that allows copies to be accessed through the Web.



Led by Arizona, state archives and libraries in Alabama, Florida, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina and Wisconsin are collaborating on the PeDALS project, which has four major goals:

- ◆ To describe the curatorial processes of acquisition, arrangement and description, storage, access, and preservation as business rules. These processes will then be programmed using Microsoft's BizTalk middleware to automate the flow of digital information as it moves from government offices to secure archival storage.
- ◆ To build a secure and inexpensive storage network to protect the authenticity and integrity of the documents. PeDALS uses LOCKSS software, developed by Stanford University Libraries, to maintain copies of the documents in separate physical locations and to provide automatic integrity and error checking.
- ◆ To build a community of best practice to promote resource sharing and to avoid costs of redundant work.
- ◆ To remove barriers to preservation by keeping costs as low as possible.

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## Why PeDALS Is Important

Citizens, corporations, and state and local governments interact on a daily basis. These interactions are preserved in a wide range of records and publications, such as birth and death records, deeds, marriage certificates, professional and commercial licenses, and official reports. These documents are essential to ensuring the rights of citizens and organizations, and to understanding the responsibilities of governments.

Government records tell the stories of the past, answer questions in the present, and document government policy and cultural history for the future. Government publications document programs and services and are critical to keeping the public informed and holding officials accountable.

Increasingly, these records and publications are created and maintained only in digital formats, with little thought given to their long-term preservation and access. The PeDALS project will provide archives and libraries with a practical system to preserve these important digital documents and to make sure they are available for future generations.

*Let us save what remains: not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident.*

— THOMAS JEFFERSON, FEBRUARY 18, 1791